

V. MAYAKOVSKY

WHAT IS
GOOD
AND
WHAT IS
BAD





One fine day
 a tiny laddie
came
 and asked his dad:
“Could you tell me,
 Daddy,
what is *good*
 and what is *bad?*”
All his daddy said
 I heard.
Children,
 gather near.
Daddy’s answer,
 word for word,
I shall tell you
 here.







**If the wind
behaves like mad,
bringing hail
and sleet,
anybody knows
it's bad —
no walking in the street.**



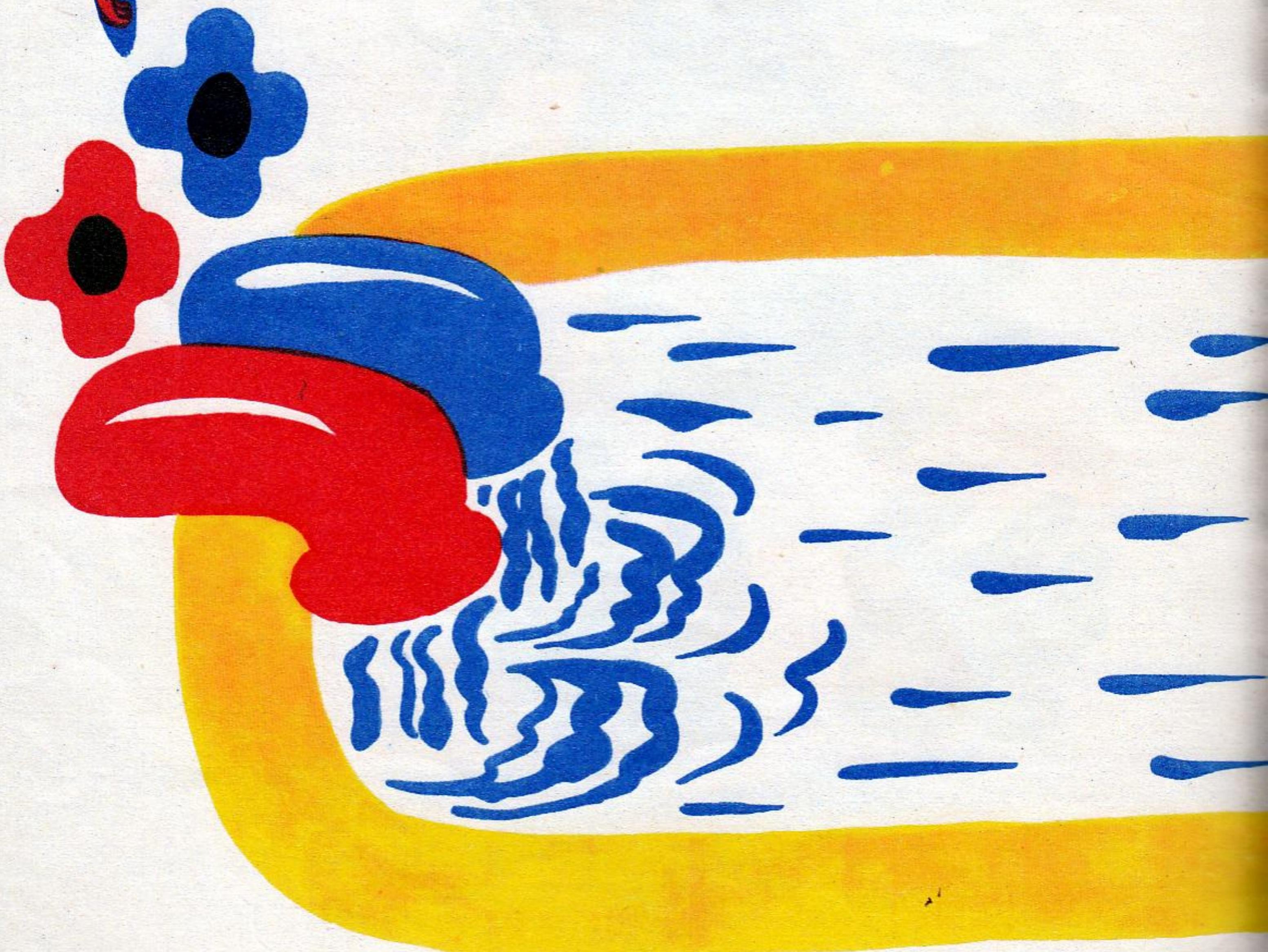
**After rainfall
comes the sun,
driving off the cold.
That is good
for everyone,
whether young
or old.**



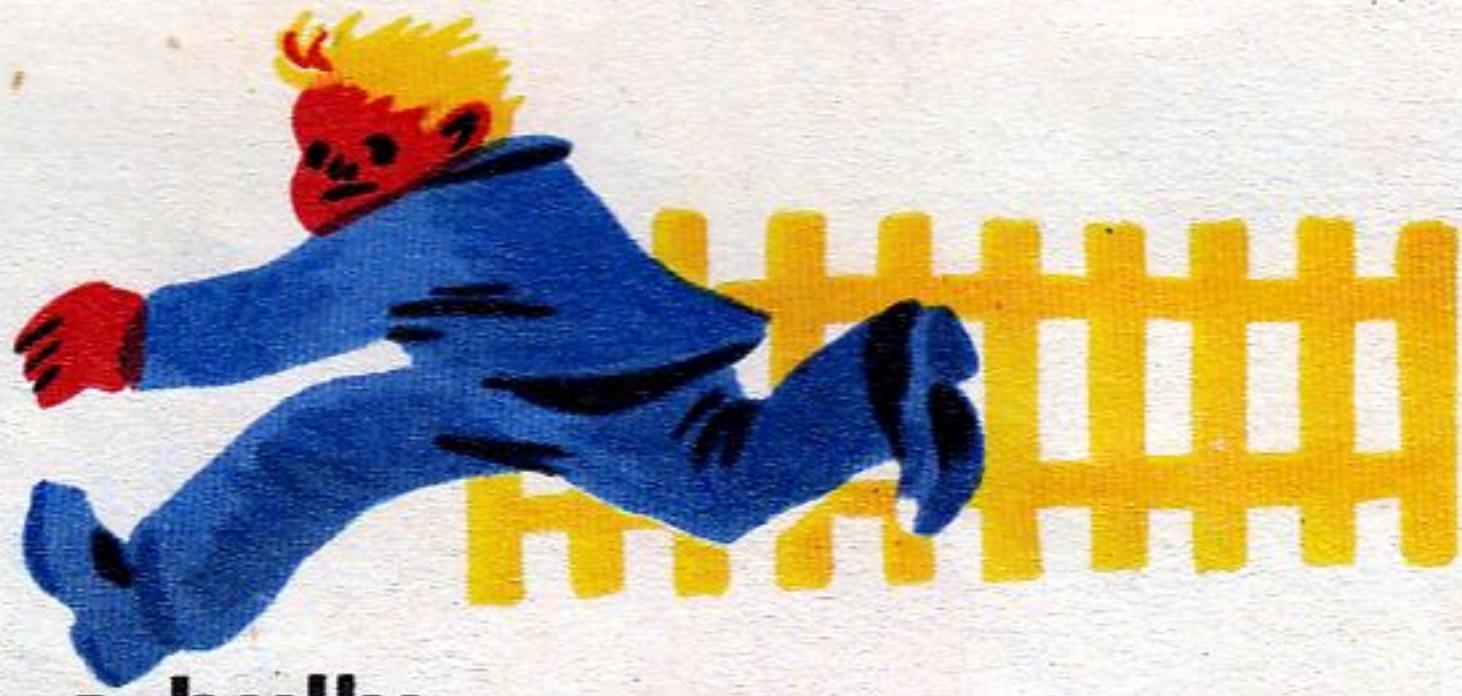
**When
a tiny little lad has
dirty cheeks
and chin,
this is clearly
very bad
for the youngster's skin.**



If a boy
keeps clean and neat,
washes
twice a day,
he's a darling,
simply sweet,
a good lad,
anyway.







**When a bully,
Tom or Billy,
thrashes
weaker mates,
his behaviour's bad and silly—
which everybody
hates.**

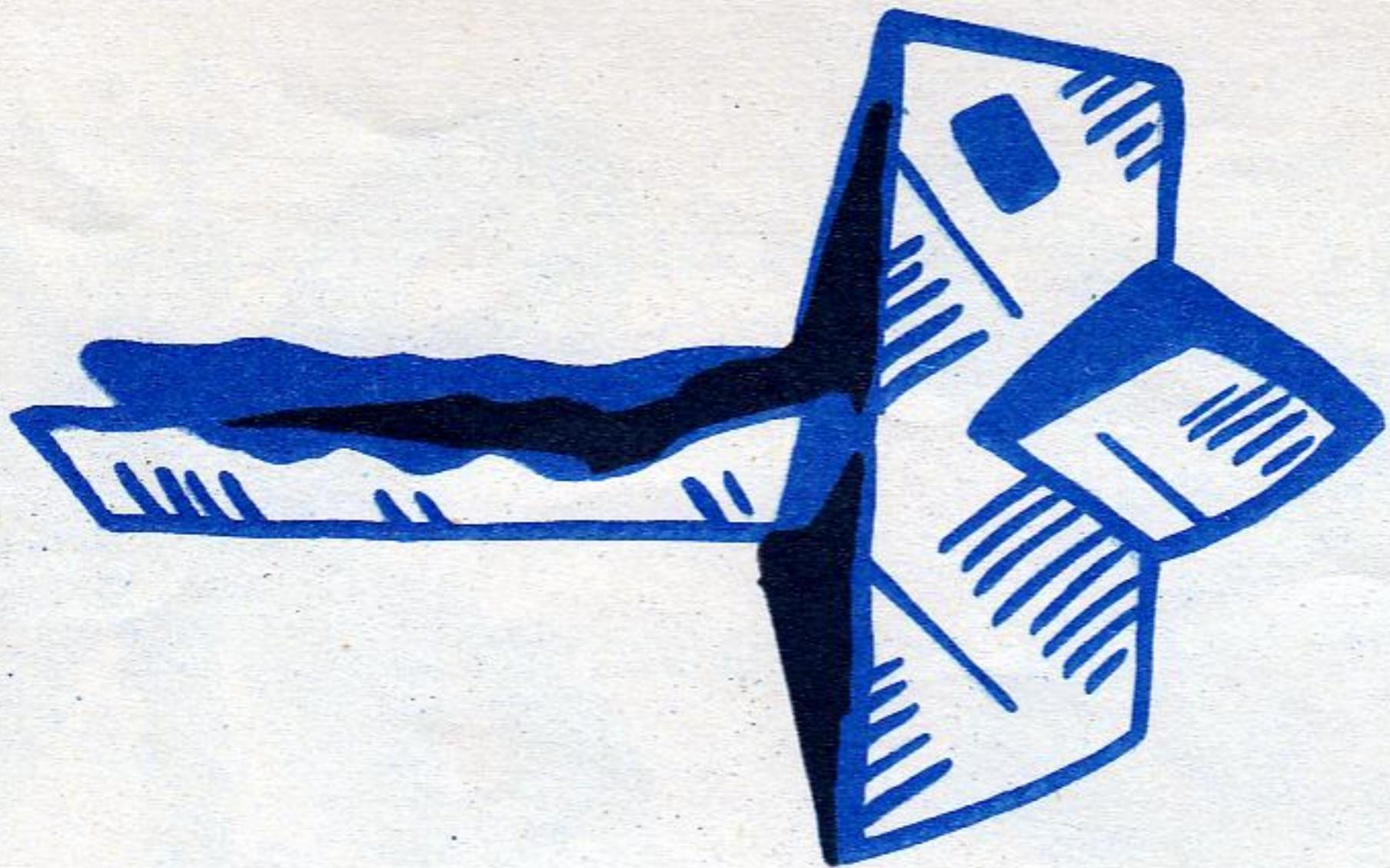
**This one shouts:
“You mustn’t touch
smaller boys
than you!”**

**I admire him
very much,
and so,
I’m sure,
do you.**



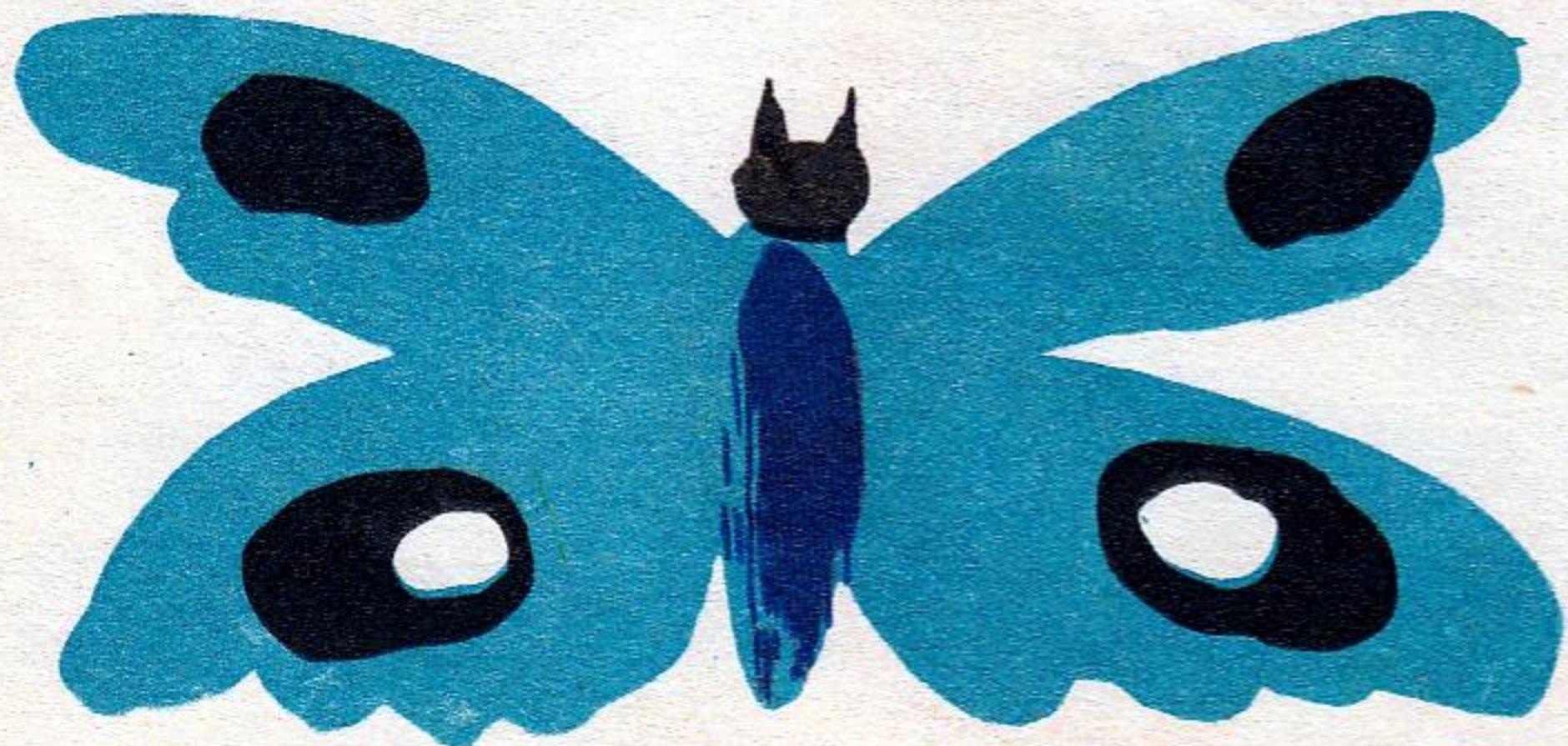
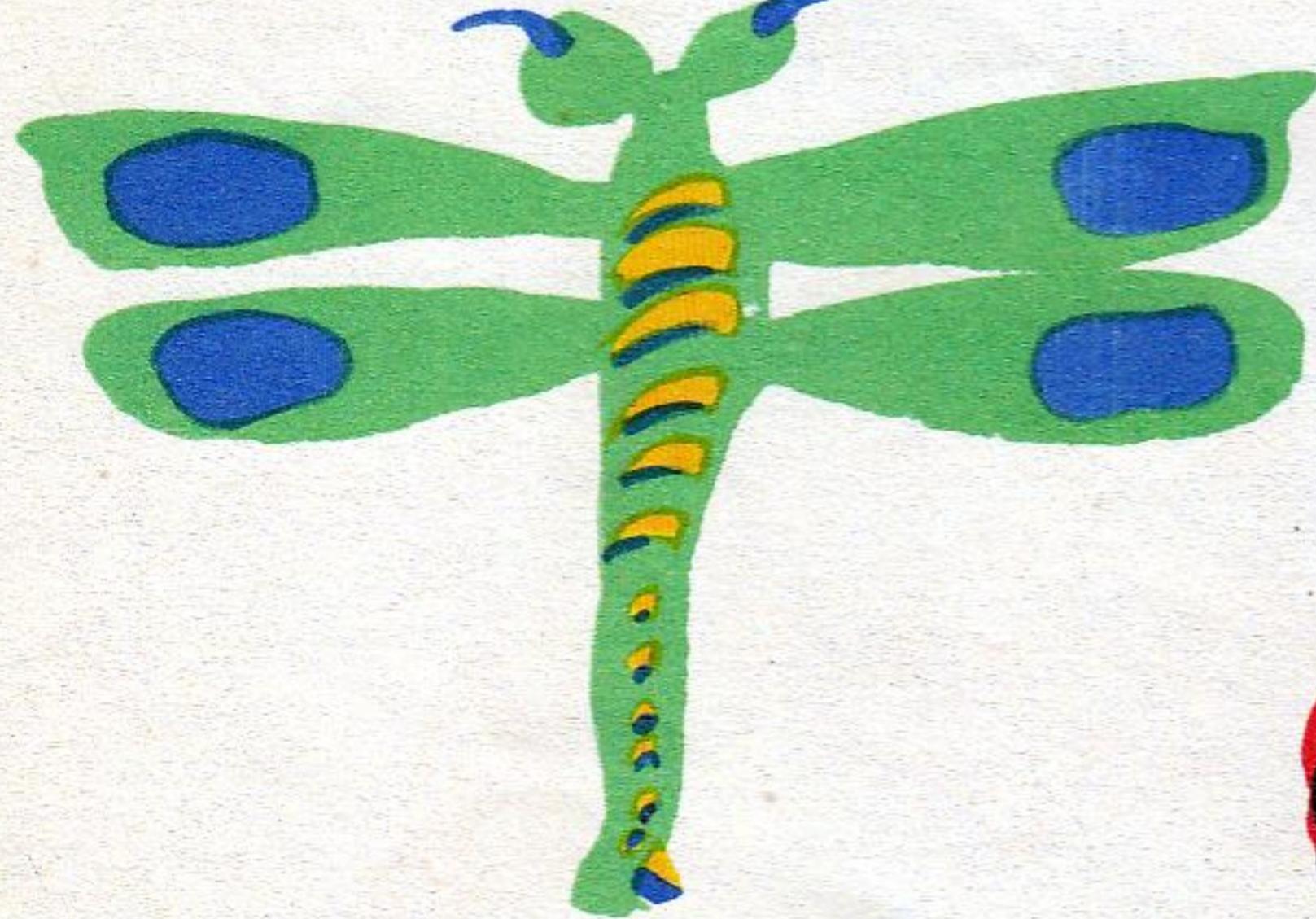






If you spoil
a book and toy
in
a single day,
“That’s a baddish little boy!”
everyone will say.





**This one loves
to work and read,
likes drawing
in his pad.
He's a good one,
yes, indeed,
the proper kind
of lad!**





**This baby's scared
to see a crow.**

**Shame
upon the lad!
Cowardice,
you ought to know,
is very,
very bad.**





This one

**shoos the bird away
from a hen and chicks.**

Good!

**A brave boy,
we can say,
though he's hardly six.**



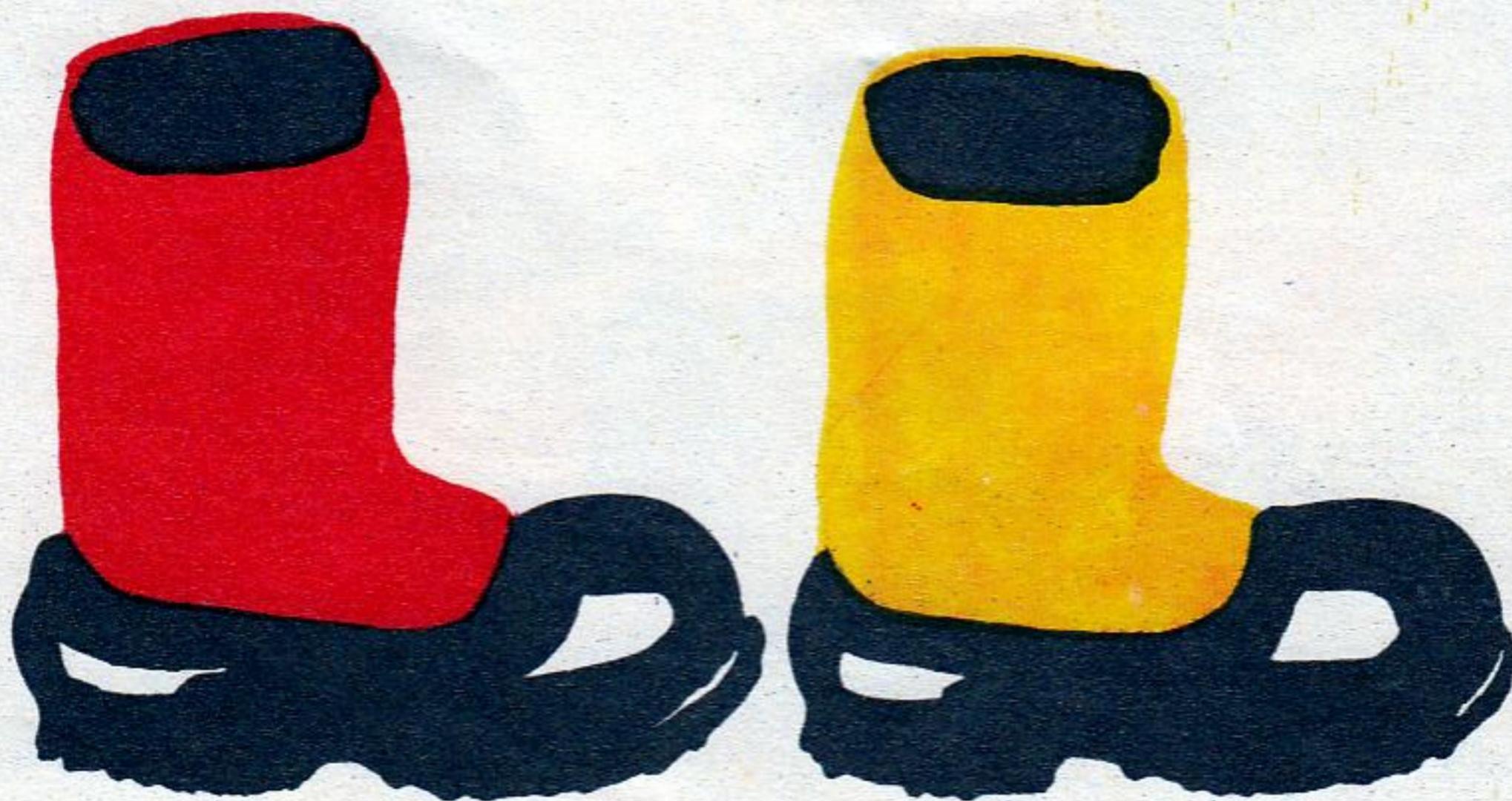


**This one
wallows in the dirt,
giggling with joy,
soils his trousers
and his shirt,
bad,
untidy boy!**



**This one
 cleans his shoes himself,
though
 just four years old,
puts his things
 upon a shelf.**

**He's
as good as gold!**

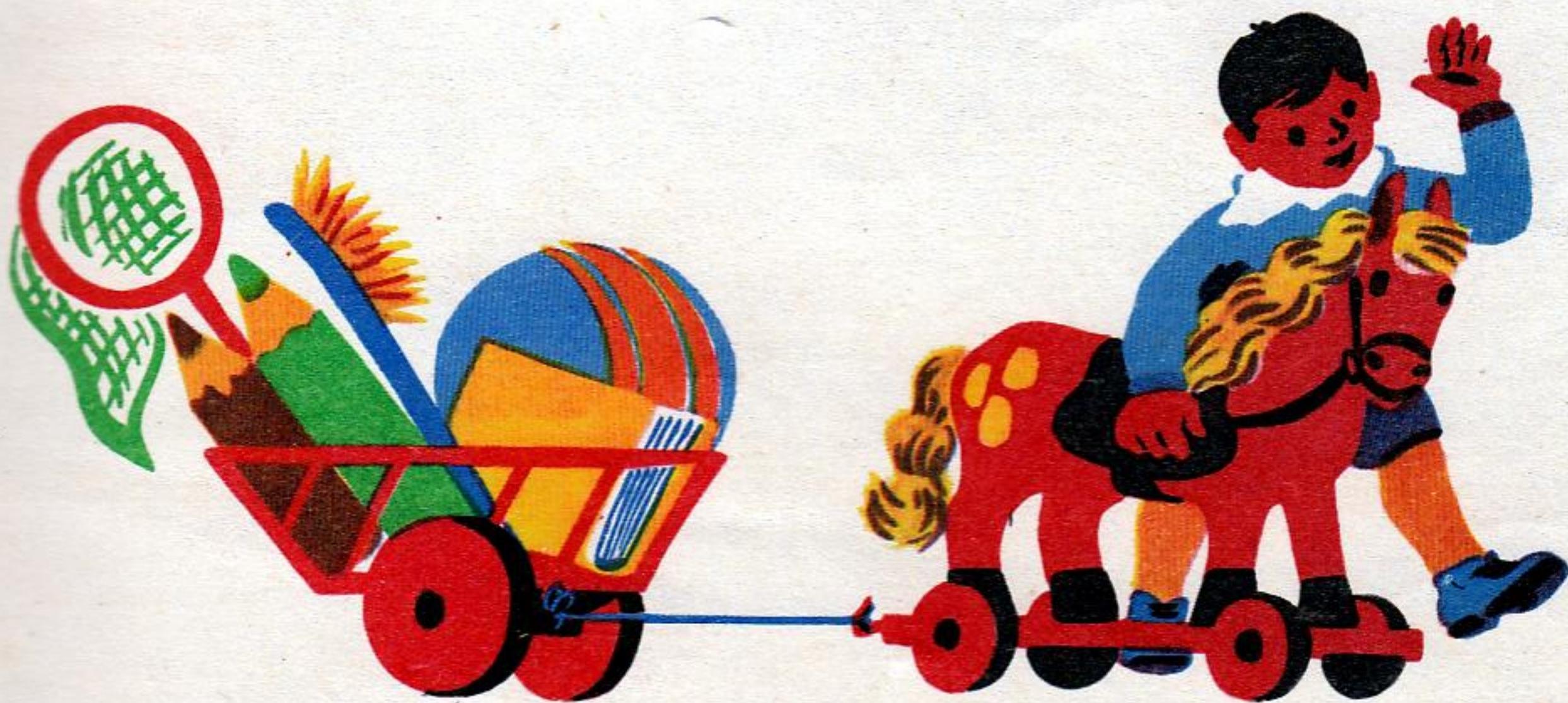






**Remember, all who aren't yet big:
if you're now
a piggy,
you'll become
a downright pig
when you grow up
bigger.**

**Sonny beamed—
he'd understood
and he told his dad:
“Dad,
I'll always
do what's good
and never do
what's bad!”**



Drawings by V. KIRILLOV
Translated from the Russian by D. ROTTENBERG



PROGRESS PUBLISHERS
Moscow



В. МАЯКОВСКИЙ
ЧТО ТАКОЕ ХОРОШО И ЧТО ТАКОЕ ПЛОХО
На английском языке

First printing 1971
Second printing 1979

Printed in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics